

## Congresswoman NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

Representing New York's 12th Congressional District  
Ranking Democrat, House Small Business Committee



## Congress Enacts Airport Security

### Velázquez hosts public health, homeland security forum

Congress enacted sweeping changes to increase security at airports last month, determined to maintain safety in the skies. The law will put federal security workers at every airport for three years and require the screening of each piece of luggage that goes on board an aircraft.



Congresswoman Velázquez listens to a constituent at a forum to discuss bioterrorism and homeland security with officials from New York City, the EPA, FBI and the Centers for Disease Control.

In addition, Congresswoman Velázquez hosted a forum with representatives from the City and federal government to respond to concerns about bioterrorism and public health in New York.

Forum attendees learned about how to protect themselves from anthrax and other bioterrorism threats. Representatives from the FBI, the City and the Centers for Disease Control attended and took questions from the audience.

Concerns about the long-term health effects of fumes from the still-burning underground fire at the World Trade Center were also addressed. The Environmental Protection Agency continues to monitor air and water quality while joining the City in regularly cleaning streets and buildings in Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn.

"It is important to know that your vigilance helps keep our communities safe," Congresswoman Velázquez said. "Information is your best defense."

## Velázquez Wins Major Relief Bill

### Small Business Committee takes grants, low-cost loans to full Congress

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez won a major victory for helping New York City when her committee approved comprehensive small business disaster relief legislation. Congresswoman Velázquez is the top Democrat on that committee.

The bill includes Velázquez's proposal to provide disaster grants and low- or no-cost loans to help companies in New York that were affected by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

Also, the bill makes small financial institutions and non-profit organizations eligible for disaster aid. Many of these companies were located in and near the World Trade Center and are not currently eligible for assistance.

"I am excited the committee has produced such comprehensive legislation," Congresswoman Velázquez said. "I am sure Congress will soon make it law."



Congresswoman Velázquez, with U.S. Small Business Administrator Hector Barreto, meet with members of the Chinatown community last month to discuss the need for disaster relief.



# Citizenship Drives Help More to Become Citizens

Congresswoman Velázquez cosponsored forums to aid application process



Congresswoman Velázquez helps naturalization applicants at a Citizenship Drive held last month.

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez joined NALEO and East Brooklyn Immigrants in Action to host two citizenship drives last month to help those in the immigrant community who are interested in becoming citizens.

Volunteers were on hand to help fill out forms, take photographs, and assemble applications for a small fee.

Applicants are encouraged to complete their paperwork soon, because INS fees will increase after the first of the year.

The district offices of Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez provide services for people interested in gaining American citizenship. Contact a caseworker there by calling 1-718-599-3658.



# Congress Funds Greenpoint Manuf. Center

\$500,000 will help rehabilitate, reuse historic industrial waterfront property

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez announced Congressional passage last month of her funding proposal of \$500,000 for the Greenpoint Manufacturing and Design Center to buy property and develop a small business incubator facility for North Brooklyn.

The new facility would be another in a series of successfully reclaimed properties along the East River waterfront.

“This money will help the North Brooklyn community in so many ways,” Congresswoman Velázquez said. “It builds more quality manufacturing space. It brings economic development into a much-needed area. Most importantly, it provides new jobs for the community.”

The Center is a non-profit community development organization that renovates old “brownfield” industrial property into clean, modern manufacturing space for new businesses.

“We are grateful for Congresswoman Velazquez’s continued leadership in the area of small business development and her commitment to creating jobs for the residents of North Brooklyn,” said Greenpoint Manufacturing and Design Center CEO David Sweeny.



The Greenpoint Manufacturing and Design Center, located here at 1155 Manhattan Ave., is a non-profit organization dedicated to refurbishing old industrial property for new use.

# HUD Awards \$28 Million for Low-income Elderly Housing

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez announced \$28 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to build 195 units of Section 202 housing for low-income seniors in Bushwick and Williamsburg.

“As members of our community grow older, it

becomes more important to help them live independently and with dignity,” Congresswoman Velázquez. “Our elderly have lived and worked long in service to our country. I am proud that these organizations see their personal value and want to help them to live on their own with the services they need.”

## Grants Awarded to Our Community

United Talmudical Academy.....\$137,071	St. John the Baptist School.....\$52,789
“E-Rate” funds for Internet connections	“E-Rate” funds for Internet connections